

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY

China

REPORT

SUBJECT

Status of U.S. Plane Crew
Downed in Swatow Area

DATE DISTR.

5 August 1953

NO. OF PAGES

2

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REFERENCES

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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China, Changchou (May 1953)

1. In mid-January 1953 an American plane making a low altitude reconnaissance flight over Nansotao (N 23-26, E 117-04) was shot down by Chinese Communist anti-aircraft fire. Later two other American planes arrived separately to effect a rescue. One of these planes was also shot down.¹ No living American airmen were captured by the Communists. The two wrecked planes were towed ashore and taken to Swatow.²
2. At noon one day in mid-January an American plane coming from the direction of Swatow was circling the area south of Tungshantao (N 23-50, E 117-30), when suddenly it caught fire. The plane crashed into the sea approximately ten nautical miles south of Tungshantao. Several hours later one American plane arrived on the scene, subsequently followed by another. The planes landed on the water³ and apparently attempted to effect a rescue. One of the planes subsequently fell into the sea.¹

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1. [redacted] According to the account of the incident in FEAF Intelligence Roundup and Operational Summary No. 128, 7-13 February, the second plane crashed while taking off with survivors because of the failure of one engine.
2. [redacted] Comment. On 23 January 1953 an article appeared in the Hong Kong newspaper Hua Chiao Jih Pao stating that the Communist authorities in Swatow were instructed by Canton to offer rewards to fishermen who succeeded in bringing in from the sea any parts of the wreckage of the planes or survivors or the bodies of those killed in the crash. The article stated that the Communists were probably offering the rewards in hopes of getting more information about the planes.
3. [redacted] Comment. According to the FEAF Roundup cited above, only one plane landed to rescue survivors of the aircraft shot down by Communist fire.
4. [redacted] Comment. According to the FEAF Roundup cited above, the plane went down northeast of Swatow.
5. [redacted] Comment. According to other information available to this office, the planes that crashed were navy aircraft, not air force planes.
6. [redacted] Comment. Another agency reported that according to a resident of Swatow, two Americans in tattered khaki were exhibited publicly in Swatow about 7 March and sent to Canton about 10 March.

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